

Message Text

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54

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-20 AID-20 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00

SWF-02 NIC-01 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 SCI-06 DRC-01 /122 W

----- 011805

R 231027Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8043

INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SOFIA 0824

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, BEXP, BU

SUBJECT: AGRICULTURAL CONDITIONS-BULGARIA

REF: SOFIA 0710

1. LATE SPRING RAINS WHICH HAD BROKEN LONG DRY SPELL (REFTEL) HAVE CONTINUED THROUGH ALL OF MAY AND THREAT TO BULGARIAN AGRICULTURE HAS SHIFTED FROM DROUGHT TO SURPLUS.

2. IN RECENT TRIPS WEST OF SOFIA EMBASSY OFFICERS HAVE NOTED THAT BISTRICA AND NISHTAVA RIVERS ARE OVER BANKS AND FLOODING SURROUNDING LAND, CONDITION WHICH IS REPORTED TO EXIST THROUGHOUT THE STRUMA WATERSHED. HEAVEY RAINS THROUGHOUT MAY CAN BE EXPECTED TO INCREASE RUNOFF BUT SHOULD ALSO HAVE DONE MUCH TO RAISE WATER TABLE LEVELS IN PLOVDIV AND PLEVEN REGIONS. MORE IMPORTANTLY, ESPECIALLY FOR ENERGY SITUATION, RAINS APPEAR TO HAVE BROUGHT RESERVOIR LEVELS IN SOFIA REGION TO NEAR NORMAL.

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3. HEAVY RAINS HAVE, HOWEVER, HAD DELETERIOUS EFFECT

ON FRUIT AND VEGETABLE CROP. FIRST HARVESTING OF
CHERRIES WHICH SHOULD, ACCORDING TO TRADITION, BE
AVAILABLE MAY 24 HAS BEEN DELAYED. ONE BULGARIAN
AGRONOMIST TOLD EMOFF THAT "SERIOUS DAMAGE" HAD BEEN
DONE TO PEACH AND APRICOT CROPS IN SLIVEN DISTRICT.
BULGARIA, OF COURSE, DEPENDS HEAVILY ON EXPORT OF
FRUITS AND VEGETABLES AS SOURCE OF HARD CURRENCY
BUT IF PAST PRACTICE HOLDS, CAN SIMPLY DIVERT SUPPLIES
DESTINED FOR DOMESTIC MARKET TO MAKE UP ANY DEFICIT
THAT MAY EXIST FOR EXPORT MARKET.
HERZ

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, IRRIGATION, CROP DESTRUCTION, GRAINS, DROUGHTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SOFIA00824
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740129-0359
From: SOFIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740523/aaaaatzm.tel
Line Count: 72
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: SOFIA 0710
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 APR 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <14 JUN 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AGRICULTURAL CONDITIONS-BULGARIA
TAGS: EAGR, BEXP, BU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005